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and "a loose liver", which should have been sacrificed to a fuller treatment of the questions which are here of primary importance. Thus there is no discussion of the date of Herfast's promotion to his bishopric or of the kind of problem raised by his appearance as chaplain in no. 29 a year after witnessing as chancellor in no. 22. The account of the household officers is better, and there are some interesting pages on justice and administration in the charters, though the new material is less than one could hope.

Taken as a whole, Mr. Davis has given us an intelligent and exceedingly useful piece of work which deserves to be continued even beyond 1154. It is, however, to be hoped that in succeeding volumes extraneous matter may be excluded and topics directly connected with charters may be treated with the fullness which they deserve. There is also room for greater accuracy in detail and greater finish of workmanship.

CHARLES H. HASKINS.

A Calendar of the Feet of Fines relating to the County of Huntingdon, levied in the King's Court from the Fifth Year of Richard I. to the End of the Reign of Elizabeth, 1194-1603. Edited by G. J. TURNER, M.A. [Cambridge Antiquarian Society, publication no. XXXVII.] (Cambridge: The Society. 1913. Pp. clxiv, 300.)

WITHIN the narrow limits of an introduction to this calendar the evidence for early English legal history is again examined and interpreted by one of England's most able legal historians, and the conclusions reached, some of which were discussed with Maitland, are not always in accord with more or less generally accepted theories. The subject-matter is varied. There are useful notes, marked by Mr. Turner's very exact scholarship, on the extension of proper names, the use of surnames, titles, and styles, and a long and valuable discussion of the nature of fines and the intricate procedure by which they were levied. The most important of Mr. Turner's suggestions, however, are based upon what is passed by the fine, and relate to early agrarian history and land measures. The earlier manor he believes to have been the "mansion" of the lord, with appurtenant judicial and agrarian rights. He shows that the creation of new manors was not in every case the result of subinfeudation, and thus makes more clear the difficult working of *Quia Emptores*. He believes that changes in the units of measurement of land are to be ascribed not to the coming of new conquering races but to the natural shifts of agricultural systems. He suggests that the bovate, not essentially a Danish measure, was the territorial holding of the ordinary peasant in the north, that it contained twelve and a half customary acres of twenty-five strips, thus proving itself older than the two-field system, that it was measured by the customary rod of six yards of the north, and that it was in no way a measure of economic necessity,

but the holding of the peasant who contributed one ox to the plough team of eight oxen. In like manner, the territorial virgate was not the derivative of the hide, but was the normal tenement of the south, measured by the *virga*, or rod, and containing thirty "customary acres", or sixty-acre strips measured by the five-yard rod of the south. The customary acre and the customary rods of different lengths in different districts by which it was measured, thus established, are very valuable additions to our knowledge of early land measures. Mr. Turner might have added Lincolnshire to the districts in which the "stang" occurs.

With regard to the origin of the hide, the manorial system, and the vill, the suggestions, while tentative, are of great importance by reason of Mr. Turner's mastery of the evidence and the clarity and independence of his thought. The manorial system he takes back again to the Romans, accepting those parts of Seeböhm's theory that have not been refuted. The hide, he suggests, corresponded to the Roman lord's domain, and formed the unit of allotment to the German settler, who had under him sixteen peasants each holding one virgate, foreshadowing thus the five-hide arrangement proved by Mr. Round. The so-called big-hide argument of Maitland is probably thus met; the free lordless village remains a difficulty, but Mr. Turner promises further discussion. The intermixture of the lord's strips with the villagers', which would weigh against his conclusion, he believes to be the result of later acquisition, and the original demesne to have been separate, although measured in strips for convenience of cultivation. For the vill as an agrarian unit he substitutes a "mere group of hides", an administrative unit equivalent to the tithing of ten hides, a tenth of the hundred, suggesting on the authority of William of Malmesbury that Alfred was responsible for the institution of the hundred and the tithing or vill. Such suggestions raise many questions, and lead one to hope that Mr. Turner will soon carry his study of Anglo-Saxon conditions further—that he will consider, for example, the history of the agrarian unit in districts like Norfolk where, as Mr. Haverfield has pointed out, the Roman villa or farm did not appear.

N. NEILSON.

Georgius Agricola: De Re Metallica. Translated from the first Latin edition of 1556 with Biographical Introduction, Annotations, and Appendices upon the Development of Mining Methods, Metallurgical Processes, Geology, Mineralogy and Mining Law from the Earliest Times to the Sixteenth Century. By HERBERT CLARK HOOVER, A.B., and LOU HENRY HOOVER, A.B. (London: published for the Translators by *The Mining Magazine*. 1912. Pp. xxxi, 640.)

THIS translation of the *magnum opus* of Agricola is a noteworthy monument of patient and intelligent scholarship and generous private expenditure, and is worthily dedicated to Professor John Caspar